

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00137 021332Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 021230Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1836
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON
AMEMBASSY CAIRO ARE
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

S E C R E T MANAMA 0137

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : STATUS MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS

1. FEBRUARY 1 I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN WE COULD WRAP UP PAPER WORK ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID CABINET FIRST WANTED TO HEAR DETAILED BRIEFING BY LEGAL MINISTER BAHARNA ON PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING RE JURISDICTION AND TO DISCUSS OUR DRAFT LETTER NOTING SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTAINING REASSURANCES RE MIDEASTFOR MISSION. GOB HOPED TO GET THROUGH THIS WITHIN A WEEK AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID RADICAL OPPOSITION MEMBERS IN ASSEMBLY NOW TRYING TO TABLE "SENSE OF PARLIAMENT" RESOLUTION OPPOSING U.S. NAVY PRESENCE. NOTING SPEAKER HAD RULED CALL FOR VOTE OUT OF ORDER DURING LAST WEEKS CLOSED SESSION DEBATE, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOB HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE THIS LATEST OPPOSITION EFFORT OTHER THAN TO STALL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HE SAID GOB DOES NOT INTEND LET THIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAMA 00137 021332Z

PROBLEM DELAY WRAPPING UP NEGOTIATIONS. HE REAFFIRMED

ANY RESOLUTION WOULD IN ANY EVENT NOT HAVE LEGAL FORCE UNDER CONSTITUTION BUT WOULD MERELY BE EXPRESSION OF ASSEMBLY OPINION. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THREE OF THIRTY ELECTED DEPUTIES HAD TRIED TO BE HELPFUL IN DEBATE HE HAD IMPRESSION OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ELECTED MEMBERS WOULD VOTE FOR A MOTION DENOUNCING CONTINUED NAVY PRESENCE HERE.

3. I CONGRATULATED FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS HANDLING OF DEBATE AND DETERMINATION TO PRESS ON WITH WRAPPING UP THIS MATTER. HIS REACTION SEEMED MORE ONE OF GRIM CONFIDENCE THAN JUBILATION.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF, JCS, CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFOR.
TWINAM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES

SECRET

NNN

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